

ON

## NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 2nd August 1879.

## LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Number of copies issued.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
<b>BENGALI.</b>				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Bhārat Shramajivī" ... ..	Barāhanagar	4,000	
2	"Grāmvartā Prakāshikā" ... ..	Comercolly	200	
<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
3	"Purva Pratidhwani" ... ..	Chittagong	.....	
4	"Rajshahye Samvād" ... ..	Rajshahye	.....	
<i>Weekly.</i>				
5	"Ananda Bazar Patrikā" ... ..	Calcutta	700	22nd July 1879.
6	"Bhārat Mihir" ... ..	Mymensingh	658	22nd ditto.
7	"Bengal Advertiser" ... ..	Calcutta	.....	
8	"Bardwān Sanjivani" ... ..	Bardwān	.....	29th ditto.
9	"Dacca Prakāsh" ... ..	Dacca	400	27th ditto.
10	"Education Gazette" ... ..	Hooghly	1,168	25th ditto.
11	"Hindu Hitaishini" ... ..	Dacca	300	
12	"Hindu Ranjikā" ... ..	Beaulah, Rājshāhye...	200	
13	"Murshidābād Pratinidhi" ... ..	Berhampore	.....	
14	"Navavibhākar" ... ..	Calcutta	900	28th ditto.
15	"Pratikār" ... ..	Berhampore	235	25th ditto.
16	"Rangpore Dik Prakāsh" ... ..	Kākinīā, Rangpore	250	24th ditto.
17	"Sādhārani" ... ..	Chinsurah	516	27th ditto.
18	"Sahachar" ... ..	Calcutta	500	28th ditto.
19	"Samālochak" ... ..	Ditto	1,000	25th ditto.
20	"Samāchār Sār" ... ..	Allahabad	.....	
21	"Sanjivani" ... ..	Mymensingh	.....	25th ditto.
22	"Sulabha Samāchār" ... ..	Calcutta	5,500	26th ditto.
<i>Tri-weekly.</i>				
23	"Samāchār Sudhāvarshan" ... ..	Ditto	.....	
<i>Daily.</i>				
24	"Samvād Prabhākar" ... ..	Ditto	550	25th to 31st July 1879.
25	"Samvād Purnachandrodaya" ... ..	Ditto	.....	26th July to 1st August 1879.
26	"Samāchār Chandrikā" ... ..	Ditto	625	25th to 31st July 1879.
27	"Banga Vidyā Prakāshikā" ... ..	Ditto	.....	
<b>ENGLISH AND BENGALI.</b>				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
28	"Murshidābād Patrikā" ... ..	Berhampore	.....	18th July 1879
<b>ENGLISH AND URDU.</b>				
29	"Urdu Guide" ... ..	Calcutta	400	26th ditto.
<b>ENGLISH, BENGALI, AND HINDI.</b>				
<i>Daily.</i>				
30	"Byāpārī;" or, The Trader ... ..	Ditto	.....	28th July to 2nd August 1879.
<b>HINDI.</b>				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
31	"Behār Bandhu" ... ..	Bankipore, Patna	509	30th July 1879.
32	"Bhārat Mitra" ... ..	Calcutta	.....	24th ditto.
33	"Sār Sudhānidhi" ... ..	Ditto	.....	28th ditto.
<b>PERSIAN.</b>				
34	"Jām-Jahān-numā" ... ..	Ditto	250	25th ditto.



## POLITICAL.

BHARAT MIHIR,  
July 22nd, 1879.

Debates on Indian affairs in Parliament.

The *Bhārat Mihir*, of the 22nd July, contains an article on the recent speeches of Lord Northbrook and Sir William Harcourt in Parliament relative to the affairs of India. We give below the opening paragraph :—Sorry, as we are, for the sorrows of the late unfortunate Shere Ali, and in spite of the circumstance, that the costs of the Afghan war have been most unjustly and inequitably thrown upon our shoulders, we do nevertheless feel that it was but an auspicious circumstance that insult was offered to the British Mission, and Afghanistan, that land of heroes, was deluged with the surges of war. It was auspicious, since that hour, the heart of the British nation has been attracted towards the people of India, and it would seem as though the British Lion roused from its sleep had with its strong arm given them assurances of safety. Through the disinterested, energetic, and eloquent exertions of Messrs. Bright, Fawcett, Gladstone, Lord Northbrook, and the late Lord Lawrence, an altogether novel and hopeful agitation has been made in Parliament regarding the affairs of this country. They have dwelt upon the grievances of the people and the injustice that has been done to them. But Sir William Harcourt has dealt a vigorous blow at the root of the tree of poison. He has kindled a fire which threatens to consume the whole extent of rank vegetation. He has taken up the subject of Indian constitution.

Continuing the same subject, the same journal thus remarks, in one passage regarding the conduct of Government towards its own legally constituted advisers in the matter of the Afghan war, the Vernacular Press Act, and the cotton duties :—Blind as we are, how shall we see through or comprehend the impenetrable magic under cover of which the Government of India pulls the strings for the ruin of this country? Even the Members of the Indian Executive Council are not always able to do this. The recent agitations of Indian affairs in England, however, have in a large measure opened our eyes. So long we had only the impression that Government had entered upon an unjust and guilty war on the frontiers; but it is now found that the Secretary of State did not give his Council even the least inkling of what was going to happen, before hostilities had been actually proclaimed. [The substance of Sir William Harcourt's speech referring to the action of Government in the matter of the cotton duties, the Vernacular Press Act, &c., is then given.] The Editor concludes the article by thanking Mr. Stokes for the sentiments he has recorded in his dissentient minute, and observes that the people now look up to the English people as the only body which can do them justice.

BHARAT MIHIR.

## 2. Adverting to Mr. Gladstone's speech in the House of Commons on the finances of India, the same paper remarks

Mr. Gladstone's speech.

that in all ages the spectacle of might successfully contending with right has been noticed among those nations one of which has happened to stand in the position of conqueror and the other that of the conquered. In these contests, justice or right is invariably a loser for the time being, although in the long run it prevails. Such a conflict has now for a long time past raged in India. Blinded by self-interest, the English rulers occasionally embark upon a policy which turns out to be adverse to the interests of this country; the people protest in the name of justice, and their complaints are echoed in England. The power of Government, however, remains intact; nay, it grows in severity with the increasing force of the protests. The Vernacular Press Act, the License Tax, the Arms Act, the remission of the cotton duties, and the rebuke administered to the British Indian Association by the Viceroy are all evidences of this



fact. As has been observed by Mr. Gladstone, this sacrifice of right at the altar of might has become more common than ever since the assumption of the imperial title by the Queen. No system of Government is ever likely to possess a character of permanency, which does not harmonize with the condition of the people for whose benefit it may be intended. With the present administration, however, everything is found to be unusual. No other Viceroy before him so completely ignored the public opinion of the country as has been done by Lord Lytton. The action of Government has estranged from it the loyal hearts of the people. They will continue to be loyal, for loyalty to the British rule and the promotion of their own self-interests coincide; but one thing is clear, namely, that, under the administration of Lord Lytton, that fervour of devotion and the proud consciousness which are called forth by the mere mention of the Sovereign's name are gradually disappearing from their minds. Whenever we have any occasion to think of the sovereign power, the thoughts of the License Tax, the Vernacular Press Act, and the Arms Act arise in our minds to distract us with fear. During a brief period has Lord Lytton brought a gloom and despondency upon this country. His Excellency can, however, yet retrieve his lost reputation if he can succeed in effecting a reduction of public expenditure, and in facilitating the elevation of natives to high offices in the public service.

3. The *Ananda Bazar Patrikâ*, of the 22nd July, contains an article headed—"Even the savage Zulus are more lucky than we," in which the Editor refers to the charge brought in Parliament by a Member, Mr. O'Donnell, against the cruelties said to have been practised on captive Zulus by the British army in Africa, and to the indignant manner in which the Colonial Secretary repelled these accusations, thus showing the value which Government puts upon the life of a Zulu. Now, it so happens that the same Member, only shortly before, had asked the Under-Secretary of State for India whether it was true that, when hundreds of thousands were dying of starvation in India, Government had exacted the land revenue to the full; and the Under-Secretary, in reply, in a manner admitted the fact without making any apology or feeling ashamed in any way. The different attitude shown by Government towards these two questions is really to be wondered at. If the British troops had really extended a cruel treatment to the Zulus with whom they were at war, a circumstance which is not altogether improbable, considering the conduct of the British army towards the rebels during the Sepoy Mutiny, and on other occasions, the offence, however grave, would not certainly be an unpardonable one; and yet it was precisely for this that the rulers felt ashamed; while they have not had any such scruples regarding a proceeding for which there is no palliation, namely, the collection of the land revenue when famine was decimating the population of India. We, of course, know that in the sight of the authorities the life of an European is more valuable than that of a native; but what we did not know was that the life of a Zulu also was so valuable. If, therefore, we had been natives of Africa instead of India, it is just possible that we might have commanded a larger share of the generosity of the rulers than is the case at present.

The fate of Zulu captives regarded as more important than that of the famine-stricken in India.

ANANDA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
July 22nd, 1879.

4. The *Urdu Guide*, of the 26th July, asks whether Lord Lytton does not deserve the thanks of the Mahomedan community of India for bringing the Afghan war to a close; a war the necessity of which has been acknowledged on all sides. According to the Editor, His Excellency is entitled to their gratitude for so concluding the peace that, while

Lord Lytton and the treaty of Gundamuk.

URDU GUIDE,  
July 26th, 1879.



preserving intact the prestige of the British Government, the treaty of Gundamak has saved the Kingdom of Afghanistan from impending destruction, a result which would have doubtless followed from the misgovernment of Shere Ali. By this measure, a loss of human life, (especially of the lives of Mahomedans) and treasure has been prevented; while a continuance of hostilities would have increased the amount of public debt and caused the gradual destruction of an army disciplined and maintained at such a large cost. For all these reasons, it behoves the Mahomedans of Bengal to present an address to His Excellency; and this will not, as the Editor assures his readers, be either against the dictates of the Mahomedan religion, or the rules governing the social life of the Mahomedans.

#### PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

MURSHIDABAD  
PATRIKA,  
July 18th, 1879.

5. We extract the following observations from an article in the *Murshedabad Patrika*, of the 18th July, received

##### Extension of railways.

on the 28th idem:—The project of a railway

line from Ranaghat to Bhagowangola, *via* Moorshedabad, which was taken up some time ago in right earnest by the authorities, and to a successful accomplishment of which the people of this district had looked for with great concern, has now been abandoned, so it is said, temporarily, for a lack of funds. But who knows whether it will ever be taken in hand again. It is possible that the railway in question will never be an accomplished fact, just as the deficit which the Exchequer is laboring under will never cease to exist. A financial crisis which has been brought about by a twenty-years' mismanagement of the resources of the State is not such that its effects may be removed in one or two years. While the difficulty is one which requires to be grappled with by a man of real ability, many do not believe that it will be got over so long as Lord Lytton and Sir John Strachey are at the head of affairs. Hence it is that these projected lines are set down by a considerable section of the public as measures which will never be accomplished; at any rate in their time. It is not, however, desirable that the construction of reproductive public works and other measures which are likely to benefit the people should be suspended till the finances are again in a prosperous condition, or such a reduction of expenditure is made as to allow of their recommencement. The deficit, instead of being brought about through any thing done by the people, has been entirely caused by the errors of Government, the extravagance which has marked their expenditure, and their policy of entertaining Europeans. The natives of the country have like slaves rendered obedience, and paid, without protest and for generations, from their hard-earned income, whatever taxes, direct or indirect, the authorities have chosen to impose upon them. Why should they now be denied, even though it might be for a time only, the advantages of a railway communication, and other benefits which the civilization of the day holds out before them; the more so as they are willing to pay for these? While an extension of railways is urgently required in this time of scarcity for furnishing employment to the people, the suspension of the projected lines has only had the effect of producing misery and starvation.

ANANDA BASAR  
PATRIKA,  
July 22nd, 1879.

6. The *Ananda Bazar Patrika*, of the 22nd July, remarks that the appointment of Sir Steuart Bayley to officiate as Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal has placed power in able hands. Mr. Rivers Thompson, also an able man, should, however, have got the post; and although no one is dissatisfied with the arrangement which has raised Sir Steuart to the Lieutenant-Governorship, there are many who would have been gratified to see Mr. Thompson made Lieutenant-Governor. Sir Steuart, however, has been singularly fortunate



in enjoying the good opinions of successive Viceroys and Lieutenant-Governors.

7. The same paper strongly condemns the sympathy which is being expressed in high quarters at Simla, with the accused Casorati. The work of the Judge, before whom the trial will take place, is likely to be rendered extremely difficult by these manifestations of a misguided sentiment.

The trial of Casorati.

ANANDA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
July 22nd, 1879.

8. A correspondent of the *Dacca Prakash*, of the 27th July, refers to the inconvenience and hardship occasioned to the inhabitants of the villages which were, some time ago, transferred from the jurisdiction of Barapeta to that of the Gowhati district, owing to the cost of living in the latter place and the want of facilities of communication between the two districts. The authorities are asked to re-transfer these villages to Barapeta.

Transfer of certain villages from Gowhati to Barapeta proposed.

DACCA PRAKASH,  
July 27th, 1879.

9. Adverting to the objections which have been raised against the proposal to elevate natives to superior appointments in the public service by certain English journals, such as the *Pall Mall Gazette*, the *Navavibhakar*, of the 28th July, adduces arguments to show their utter unsoundness. The sentiments expressed in the editorial are similar to those noticed in paragraph 11 of our last Report. The writer observes that such objections as these must have emanated from persons who apprehend injury to their own interests, regardless of the financial difficulty under which Government labours at the present time, and to remove which it has become necessary to substitute native for European officers.

Appointment of natives to high offices in the public service.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,  
July 28th, 1879.

In his third article on the subject of retrenchment, the Editor of the same paper dwells on the necessity of reducing the high salaries allowed to the Governors of Madras and Bombay, and to the members of their personal staff. The former should be placed, as regards pay, on the same footing as the Lieutenant-Governors of Bengal, the North-Western Provinces, &c. The annual sojournings in the hills also should be discontinued. If this were done, considerable savings would accrue.

Reduction of public expenditure.

10. The same paper does not see any force in the arguments employed by Lord Lytton in advocating the education of European and Eurasian children from the public funds. In the first place, the observations of Lord Canning quoted in the minute, although they were true at the time, have now lost their force after a period of twenty years. During this time, a great change for the better has taken place in the condition of the classes concerned. They do not now require the helping hand which they required at the time when Lord Canning wrote his minute. The establishment of such institutions as the Eurasian Association at Calcutta shows that they have made an advance. The Eurasians and East Indians are not more entitled to public patronage and support than the natives of the country; who in point of loyalty, learning, or ability are not inferior to any. It would, of course, be a different thing if Government were anxious to further the interests of the former, on the consideration that their existence is entirely due to the presence of Europeans in the country. In that case, we might indeed admire the sense of duty which inspired the rulers, but it would not be fair or equitable if the hard-earned revenues of the people of India were thus expended by Government for the purpose of making up for their own past neglect. It indeed strikes us with surprise to observe how the powerful British Government is constantly embarrassed by idle fears. After the experience of the Sepoy Mutiny and twenty years of profound peace, and surrounded by a

The education of European and Eurasian children.

NAVAVIBHAKAR.



most loyal people, Government need have no apprehensions such as those which troubled the heart of Lord Canning regarding the dangers that might arise from allowing the Eurasians to grow up illiterate. In this connection the question arises, whence the cost of educating these classes is to come. It would not be fair to make it a charge upon the general revenues at this time specially, when there is a deficit. This is not the time when any proposals that may have for their object the benefit of a section or class of the people can or ought to be entertained. We believe that it would be but an act of wisdom if the Eurasians and East Indian children were taught in the same schools which impart education to the sons of natives. Let wealthy Eurasians and Christian Missionaries look to their own resources for the amelioration of the condition of this class.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,  
July 28th, 1879.

11. The same paper does not believe that the causes assigned by Mr. Hope for the poverty and indebtedness of the Deccan ryots are those which have really brought it about. These causes exist in other parts of India also, but the misery of the ryot is there not so extreme as in the Deccan. According to the Editor, the true causes of the phenomenon are (1), the operation of natural causes, such as draught, &c., and (2) the system of collecting the land revenue in cash and not in kind. The rules of payment are too strict. It is to be remarked that the provisions of the Bill, while exceedingly severe as regards their application to the money-lenders do not, in the least, attempt to relax the severity of the Revenue law.

12. The Government of India, says the *Sahachar*, of the 28th July, has asked the Chamber of Commerce to read its last financial circular in order to enable them to correctly judge of the present state of the finances. Now, this circular is nothing else but a number of platitudes strung together; and, however great may be the admiration felt for them by the advocates of Government, the members of the Chamber of Commerce well read in Political Economy, will possibly be of a different opinion regarding it. The truth is, that Lord Lytton has shown an utter unfitness for the office he holds; and it behoves him to leave this country.

SAHACHAR,  
July 28th, 1879.

#### LOCAL.

13. We extract the following from the column of local intelligence in the *Bhārat Mihir*, of the 22nd July:—It would seem as though all the scandals of this world had combined to attend on the operations of the License Tax. There is not a single act in connection with it which is free from reproach. Every one, from the circle officer down to the pettiest peon, has practised the utmost possible oppression, which certainly could not have been the case, if it had been in any other country or among any other people. We once thought of giving a list of these instances of oppression, but to have done this would require space which this paper, even increased a hundred-fold in size, would not command. Let Sir John Strachey once come and see for himself how this pious work of his is going on. This grinding tax has not only injured trade but it has demoralized the poor, who day and night are uttering oaths and imprecations. Previous to the imposition of the License Tax, only the educated and semi-educated classes used to discuss the actions of Government, while the great mass of the people were exceedingly attached to it. There was hardly a person who did not commend the administration and the laws of the British Government. The License Tax has destroyed this feeling, as also the unalloyed devotion of the people to the present rule. At the present time, they regard Government as a

BHARAT MIHIR,  
July 22nd, 1879.

The License tax in Mymensing.



fearful engine of oppression. We confess, we did not quite understand the dreadful character of this impost when it was first introduced. The tax, oppressive as it was, has been made the more so through the action of a number of unscrupulous, cruel, incompetent, and ignorant persons, known as circle officers. In Mymensing we find—

(1) that persons have had their property sold for the recovery of the tax and fines, although they paid it once before ;

(2) that certain circle officers have made assessments without taking the trouble to visit the houses of the assesseees or ascertain the condition of the latter ;

(3) that the poor have in many instances been overassessed ; that even many, who do not follow any trade or calling, have been set down as liable to the tax ;

(4) that the appeals have not been fairly heard ; those that had come to prefer them returned only after having paid illegal gratifications to the amlah and peons ; and

(5) that the circle officers have made inequitable assessments in the expectation of obtaining promotions in the service.

RAJKRISHNA MUKHOPADHYAYA, M.A. & B.L.,

*Bengali Translator.*

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

*The 2nd August 1879.*



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